



Huron County Historical Society

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www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Executive for 2019-2020

Vicky Culbert	President	226-421-2295	Ralph Laviolette	Secretary-treasurer
Rhea Hamilton-Seeger	Past- president	519-529-7238	Mac Campbell	Director
Elaine Snell	Membership	519-523-9531	Larry Mohring	Director
Graham Booth	Director		James White	Director
Mary Gregg	Director		Susan Glousher	Director



Reflections: The Life and Works Of J.W. (Jack) McLaren

October 8, 2020 to April 30, 2021

This exhibition showcases the life and works of John W. (Jack) McLaren, who fought with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in WWI, and entertained troops at Ypres Salient, Vimy Ridge and many other locations on the Western Front with the PPCLI Comedy Company and 3rd Division Dumbells Comedy Troupe. McLaren was also an associate of the Group of Seven at the Arts and Letters Club Toronto, and a talented artist and writer who enjoyed successful careers as a commercial and editorial illustrator, caricaturist, advertising and promotion executive, and painter throughout much of the 20th century. Jack and his wife Lillian moved to Huron County in the early 1960s, where Jack continued to be prolific in both the visual and theatrical fields. He was elected president of the Huron County Historical Society in 1968. McLaren's legacy includes an endowment providing drama and visual arts awards for Goderich District Collegiate Institute students, as well as scholarships for graduating students enrolling in postsecondary visual and dramatic arts programs.

August 2020 Newsletter

Join us for the HCHS Annual General Meeting

We are planning to hold our COVID19-postponed AGM on Wednesday, September 23, 7 p.m. in order to satisfy our corporate and charitable status requirements by audio-video conferencing using Zoom. The popularity of this new way of holding meetings and group communications is both convenient and, for some members who live further away, may be the first time they can take part in the Annual General Meeting without all the travelling involved. One of the main items on any AGM agenda is the slate of officers. We are a small friendly group who share the work to make the load lighter for others. Vicky Culbert is standing down as president. She has been very active and has set us on a course to be more in the public eye. Graham Booth has stepped down as director, and with his solid suggestion of creating banners, and Vicky lining up locations at local fairs, we were headed into a much needed public awareness campaign. While the summer is slipping by and all of the events we were to attend have been cancelled, we still have the basic blueprint to follow to get us back into the swing of things when safe to do so.

If you would like to virtually attend the AGM on September 23, please contact Ralph Laviolette to register and get set up with a link. hcbs1965@gmail.com

For the observant among you the HCHS logo featured on the top of the page here appears a bit different. Our logo was looking a bit tired and over the many years there were questions about what was really going on under the banner. Larry Mohring has been cleaning up file cabinets containing our archives and was keeping any eye open for an early version that was clean and sharp. In the meantime a wooden sign with the logo clearly showing surfaced from the Homan family. It was painted by Beulah Homan, based on the design by Jack McLaren, one time president of the Huron County Historical Society. It was photographed and cleaned up via computer technology at Blyth Printing and we now have a sharper image of our original logo to use. The cabin has a lovely straight roof and the early pioneer settlers included a fiddle among their essentials for wilderness living.

Trek to Bruce & Grey Bus Tour Scheduled - SPRING 2021

We are still hoping to make this bus tour happen and we are hopeful with more and more businesses opening up is a good sign for us. David Armstrong 519-524-1156 davidarmstrong@hurontel.on.ca

Historians of Distinction

Robert Lee, Author and Raccouteur

There are those among us, who seem to live and breathe local history.

Our first Historian of Distinction is Robert Lee. Robert is a genial man who gets totally immersed in Huron County History. While he was born and educated in Toronto, he spent all of his summers as a boy in Goderich where his roots run deep. His great-great-great grandfather Charles George Middleton arrived in Goderich Township from England (via Toronto in 1834 with his young wife, Elizabeth and their first born son) where he initially purchased 80 acres from the Canada Company and built a log cabin there. His great-grandfather, William Lee, arrived in Goderich in the 1850s and served as mayor in 1869 (he was marine agent and ship chandler at the Goderich harbour). Robert's grandfather, Charles Crabb Lee was mayor of Goderich (1931-34) and proprietor of a ship chandlery/coal/plumbing hardware business at the harbour. He also owned and operated a summer resort in Goderich, the Sunset Hotel, until his death in 1944.

Bob's studies included writing his thesis "The Canada Company: A study in Direction, 1826-1853". In 1967 Bob joined the Canadian Foreign Service as a Trade Commissioner and has had postings in the United States, Yugoslavia, Japan, Korea and Indonesia.

In 2004, Bob launched his book 'The Canada Company and the Huron Tract, 1826-1853 Personalities, Profits and Politics' at a Historical Society gathering in Holmesville. The book exposed wonderful insight into the characters and workings of the Canada Company.

Bob's heart continues to be drawn to Huron. He loves to talk about this area and to that end wrote several feature articles for the Huron County Historical Society Notes with the aim to add to the reader's knowledge of the history of Huron. He wrote the feature article in the 2016 Notes, 'Goderich a Premier Destination'. His wonderful visuals with the Sunset Hotel article added greatly to the feature. In the 2017 Notes 'Romancing the Rails' his feature focused on railway development in Huron with emphasis on Goderich.

Robert has been a long time member of the Historical Society and he continues to talk about the love he feels for Huron and its history.

Where to get your local History Books

And back copies of The Historical Notes – Finchers and The Book Peddler both of Goderich, North Huron Citizen in Blyth, The Book Barn off Hwy 86 between Wingham and Whitechurch, and The Village Bookshop in Bayfield.

Membership renewal....

If you received this newsletter by mail, the date shown above your name on the address label is the year to which your membership is paid up, according to our records. Call Elaine Snell if you are not sure or need clarification. If you are in arrears, consider this a reminder that the membership fees are \$20. To reserve your member's hard copy of Historical Notes, keep your dues up to date. Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available from Elaine Snell at 519-523-9531, or at the Museum (past copies \$8.00 per copy).

To access the members-only section for the Historical Notes or to do a search for names or places in the Historical Notes, go to www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca, open the dropdown menu for Publications, click HCHS Members Login. If you cannot get access using the password, then check if your web browser is up to date.

If the password is lost or not available readily, contact hchs1965@gmail.com or call 519-440-6206.